

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing human or animal stem cells, said method comprising:

- cell extraction;
- mechanical dissociation;
- enzymatic dissociation; and
- maintaining of the cells obtained, in a specific culture medium for preserving diversity and plasticity of the stem cells,

said method excluding *in vitro* expansion of said stem cells, wherein said stem cells are progenitor stem cells for a tissue selected from the group consisting of skin, heart, and bone tissues.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said specific culture medium comprises at least:

- a) a nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claims 3 - 4 (Canceled):

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A medicinal product comprising the human or animal stem cells, obtained according to the method of claim 1, and one or more additives

comprising a specific culture medium devoid of animal serum, the culture medium comprising

- a) nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A stem cell obtained according to the method of claim 1 which is in a specific culture medium devoid of animal serum, the culture medium comprising

- a) nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;
- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method of treatment comprising implanting autologous or heterologous animal stem cells, obtained according to the method of claim 1, into in an animal in need thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A cell composition comprising human or animal stem cells, obtained according to the method of claim 1, wherein the stem cells are in a specific culture medium devoid of animal serum, the culture medium comprising

- a) nutritive medium;
- b) a protective factor;

- c) hormones; and
- d) differentiation inhibiting factors.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The composition as claimed in claim 8, wherein the stem cells have the ability to colonize and the ability to allow functional recovery.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method of treating disease by cell therapy or gene therapy, comprising, injecting the human or animal stem cells, obtained by the method of claim 1, into a subject in need thereof.

Claims 11 - 12 (Canceled):

13. (New) A method for regenerating or repairing a tissue in a human or an animal in need thereof, comprising a step of transplanting stem cells obtained by the method of claim 1 in said human or animal, without *in vitro* expansion of said stem cells.

14. (New) A method for myocardial repair of a patient in need thereof, comprising a step of grafting stem cells in the myocardium of said patient, wherein said stem cells have been obtained by a process comprising the following steps:

- cell extraction from a skeletal muscle biopsy;
- mechanical dissociation;
- enzymatic dissociation; and
- maintaining of the cells obtained, in a specific culture medium for preserving diversity and plasticity of the stem cells,

said method excluding *in vitro* expansion of said stem cells.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said skeletal muscle biopsy is from said patient in need of myocardial repair.